

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Method for producing metal strip (1) in an installation (2), in which a metal strand, especially a thin slab, is brought to a desired temperature and/or is maintained at a desired temperature in a furnace (3, 3a, 3b) and is subjected to a rolling process in a rolling train (4) downstream of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) in the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1), wherein the metal strand (1) is subjected to at least one descaling operation during its residence time in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the descaling operation in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) is carried out in a moving location in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b).

2. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein a descaling operation is carried out approximately in the middle (6) of the region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b).

3. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein, in addition to the descaling operation in the region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), a descaling operation is carried out upstream

of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) with respect to the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1).

4. (Currently Amended) Installation (2) for producing metal strip (1), which has a furnace (3, 3a, 3b), in which a metal strand, especially a thin slab, can be brought to a desired temperature and/or maintained at a desired temperature, and a rolling train (4) for rolling the metal strand (1) downstream of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) in the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strip (1), wherein at least one descaling system (7) is installed in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the descaling system (7) in the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) is connected with moving devices (9), with which it can be moved in the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1).

5. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with Claim 4, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the descaling system (7) is installed more or less in the middle (6) of the region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b).

6. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with ~~Claim 4 or Claim 5~~, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 4, wherein the furnace (3) is continuous, and the descaling system (7) is installed in the interior of the furnace.

7. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with ~~any of Claims 4 to 6, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 4, wherein, in addition to the descaling system (7) in the region (5) of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b), a descaling system (8) is installed upstream of the furnace (3, 3a, 3b) with respect to the direction of conveyance (R) of the metal strand (1).

8. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with ~~any of Claims 4 to 7, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 4, wherein the one or more descaling systems (7, 8) are of the type with static nozzles.

9. (Currently Amended) Installation in accordance with ~~any of Claims 4 to 7, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 4, wherein the one or more descaling systems (7, 8) are of the type with rotating nozzles.